



# SOCIETY and PERSONAL ACTIVITIES of WOMEN



## Christmas Tree Harvest Brings Joy to Hearts of Childhoodland

### Ancient Legend of Scandinavians Relates Origin of "Service Tree."

The great winter harvest is at hand. It is a crop requiring from 5 to 10 years to ripen. Arriving late by a single day it is worthless, yet its failure would mean sadness and disappointment to all the dwellers in childhoodland. It is the Christmas tree.

The history of Christmas tree usage extends far into the mists of antiquity and its origin is difficult to trace. Some say it is connected with the legendary Tree of Time, Yggdrasil, the great tree of Norse mythology, within whose roots and branches heaven and earth are bound. Some say the custom may be traced to the Egyptians, who, at the time of winter solstice, decorated their portals with branches of the date palm—the symbol of life triumphant over death.

**Blood of Slain Lovers.**  
An ancient legend of the Scandinavians relates how the Christmas tree owes its origin to the "service tree" which sprang from soil once drenched with the blood of two slain lovers, and how each night during the Christmas season mysterious lights played among its branches. To this legend may perhaps be traced our custom of illuminating the tree when darkness comes. Among the Greeks, Christmas is known as the feast of lights.

To people of different localities the term Christmas tree may mean fir, spruce, pine, cedar, cypress, magnolia, for each region makes use of the most suitable species found near its markets. In the vicinity of Chicago a short-needle pine found in Michigan and Wisconsin may be used. On the Pacific coast the white fir finds favor, while throughout Ohio Norway spruce is largely used. In Maryland and Virginia the scrub pine finds its way into many homes, and farther south cedar and holly. But the Christmas tree does lux in the balsam fir. Of little use for lumber, it possesses ideal characteristics for holiday purposes—beautiful and symmetrical, with long horizontal branches and deep green foliage, each tiny leaf and bud of which sends out breath of aromatic fragrance.

**Christmas Tree Fleet.**  
Yearly a crusade is started against the Christmas tree idea, usually protesting the waste of timber and the destruction caused by our youths through their removal. The Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, in answer to these protests, points out that 5,000,000 Christmas trees are used annually within the United States, New England and New York take 1,500,000 trees, amounting to some 500

carloads. Each year a "Christmas tree fleet" makes its way down Lake Michigan with an evergreen tree at the mast of each vessel in token of the cargo it carries.

Five million trees of the size used for the holiday festival could be grown on 5,000 acres of land. The lumber industry cuts over a thousand times this acreage in a single year. If on Dec. 26, 1921, all the Nation's timber cutters should begin work two hours late, the resulting decrease in acreage annually cut would be equal to the area exploited by the Christmas tree industry for the entire year.

The annual cutting of 5,000,000 trees is insignificant as compared with the loss through forest fires which each year sweeps over 12,000,000 acres, causing a yearly wastage of about \$20,000,000.

In addition, it is pointed out that the lands from which a large portion of the trees are taken are often more suitable for pasture and are more valuable after the timber crop has been removed than they were before. In the European forests the removal of Christmas trees is made to serve the welfare of the forests when at the holiday season the cutting of the small trees is in the nature of an improvement, thinning and at the same time a source of revenue. The removal of Christmas trees from our National Forests, under the supervision of forest officers not only places a small profit in the Nation's pocket each year, but it results in a more healthy and faster growing stand of timber.

It has been demonstrated that by cutting Christmas trees of certain evergreen species above the lower portion of branches the remaining limbs turn abruptly upward and often reach a height of six feet in less than two years. If a crop of Christmas trees can be cut without actually destroying the parent tree and a new crop sprouted within two or three years, the system may become of considerable economic importance to the industry.

But so far as discontinuing the Christmas tree is concerned, the foresters are against it. Their creed is to put each acre of ground and every tree to its highest use, and to what better use can a tree be put, they ask, than to bring joy to the hearts of children on their greatest holiday.

## Expert Figures Your Chance of Long, Long Life

Safest Age is Between 11 and 12, Notes Statistician Declares.

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Dec. 10.—L. E. Ross, statistician of the California State Board of Health, has figured out your chances of living another year.

If you are one year of age, you have 31 chances out of 100 to be present when next November rolls around, says Ross.

And if you're from one year to 45 years of age, you have 39 chances out of 100 to answer "how" when the next Thanksgiving Day turkey is served.

From 45 years up, your chances are reduced. At the age of 90 years, you have 15 chances in 100; at the age of 105 years there is a 50-50 chance to live to be 106 years of age.

Statistician Ross says a careful study of thousands of records show that you have an even chance of living to—

64 years at one year.  
68 years if you are 10.  
69 years if you are 20.  
70 years at the age of 30.  
72 years at 45.  
73 years at 50.  
75 years at age of 60.  
78 years at 70, and—  
93 years at 90.

Ross' figures are based on reports of the California State Board of Health's Bureau of Vital Statistics. Ross is in complete charge of



L. E. ROSS.

the bureau, which is said to be the largest statistical department in the country.

His figures further show that a child of 11 years of age has the greatest chances of living an additional year. Between the age of 11 and 12 years, children are the safest from death. At this time there are only two chances in 1000 that the child will die.

## SOFT IN OUTLINE



BY MARIAN HALE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10.—Ostrich feathers, uncured and falling in graceful disarray trim this Poiret hat. A rather modified mushroom

in gold that its six inches beneath the surface in the wheat fields of the western provinces.

"We do not say to you, 'Leave your homes and come to Canada,'" Mr. Foster continued. "But if you have made up your minds in obedience to pioneering instinct or the desire for new worlds to conquer, then we say that western Canada, with its millions of acres of virgin prairie yet undeveloped, its countless treasures of natural resources yet unplumbed, its primordial forests yet uncharted, offers a home of contentment and independence to the sons and daughters of your pioneering forefathers."

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## WIERD TALE STIRS COURT IN FLORIDA

Poet on Trial for Slaying Says She's in a Third Existence on Earth.

ORLANDO, Fla., Dec. 10.—"There is no blood on my hands or dress. This is the same dress I wore the night of the slaying. I pushed Millmore into a chair, held the gun on him and then everything went black and I lost my memory."

Miss Lena M. Clarke, poet, formerly postmistress at West Palm Beach, in the three hours she was on the stand, related the weirdest tale that has ever been told in any court in this state. She is on trial for the murder of Fred Millmore, formerly a Chicago post office employee. The state will try to prove that she was a defaulter to the extent of \$2,000 and that Millmore was killed because he had knowledge of the shortage.

"Kept in Eden by Sword."  
Miss Clarke says she is now in her third existence. Her first recollection is when she saw God creating the universe and placing the stars. The sword that kept Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden also kept her in, although she wanted to leave and learn more of life.

She later was Isis of Egypt, the last queen of the Jews, St. Cecilia, Esau and others. She talked with Saul at Tarsus and quarreled with Cleopatra over Anthony. Shakespeare wrote "Ophelia" for and about her when she was in that existence.

A picture her brother loved told the moment he died from the sting of a rattlesnake. She believes in theosophy, astrology, crystal gazing,

spirit communication and every sort of weird science and near science.

A "Hamlet" is Hounding Her.

She says Joseph B. Elwell lent her \$28,000 to cover the shortage caused by Millmore. She also is positive that Asst. State's Atty. Mohr was Hamlet in his former existence. In her next existence she and Eugene Debs will run for president and vice president, and be elected. Then Debs will be assassinated and she will become president.

Spies are after her all the time, she says. Blackmailers, crooks of all kinds and chiefly members of the whisky ring are hounding her.

Says Millmore Admitted Theft.

She testified that Millmore admitted to her that he stole \$28,000 in 1918 and also stole the money orders in April, 1920, but he refused

to make a statement admitting it. She does not remember any of her conversation with Chief of Police Vestel, who testified that she admitted to him she killed Millmore.

Among other remarkable features of her testimony was that her aunt, who died ten years before she was born, taught her to read before she was born into this existence.

In displaying her dress to the jury to show there were no bloodstains on it, she explained that the belt strap was torn off in the scuffle with Millmore soon after he entered the room and found out she wanted to discuss money matters. She says she had brought to that fatal meeting \$1,000 to pay him for one of her letters which he had refused to surrender.

Her story threw little actual light on the killing of Millmore.

## THEN TEACHER GAVE IT UP.

Teacher—If your mother had 25 yards of stuff and made a dress containing 15 yards, how much would she have left?

Little Girl—Mamma can't make her own dresses. She has tried often, and they are always either too

Teacher—Suppose she sent it to a dressmaker, how much would the dressmaker send back?

Little Girl—Depends on which dressmaker she sent it to. Some wouldn't send any back.

Teacher—(Impatiently)—Suppose she sent it to an honest one?

Little Girl—Some of the honest ones cut things to waste, so that there is never anything left, no matter how much you send 'em.—Chicago Herald-Examiner.



## BE A THOUGHTFUL SANTA CLAUS

There are really but two classes of gifts—appreciated ones, and those which are put aside.

As you study your Christmas list, you'll discover those to whom Shoes will be most welcome. Don't you think it much nicer to give such a fine gift as Footwear, than to wish some useless bauble upon them. Just think how pleased FATHER, MOTHER, BROTHER, SISTER OR THE BABY WILL BE TO RECEIVE A FINE PAIR OF THE CELEBRATED

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